



Volunteers in Police Service Helping to Make Communities Safer Citizen Corps Program Doubles Participation Since 2003

The number of Americans participating in Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), a volunteer law enforcement program, has more than doubled since 2003 – from 27,000 to 69,000. The VIPS Program engages volunteers in 1,000 local programs across the country – an increase from 585 programs last year. The VIPS Program draws on the time and talents of civilian volunteers in order to allow law enforcement professionals to better perform their frontline duties.

The VIPS Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, and is one of four Citizen Corps programs. President Bush launched [Citizen Corps](#) in 2002 to

help coordinate volunteer activities that make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to terrorism and other emergency situations. To date, there are 1,432 [local Citizen Corps Councils](#) across America -- serving more than half of the U.S. population. In addition, there are 1,464 [CERT programs](#), 230 [Medical Reserve Corps](#) units, and 10,821 registered [Neighborhood Watch groups](#), in addition to the 1,000 [VIPS programs](#).

Citizen Corps offers community and faith-based organizations a variety of opportunities and resources to address hometown security and safety concerns. For information, visit [citizencorps.gov](#)

Resources Available to Strengthen Employee Volunteer Programs

The [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), [Points of Light Foundation](#), and [Business Strengthening America](#) have partnered together to create [Community Connections](#), a bi-monthly web-based column highlighting workplace volunteer efforts. The column provides a variety of tools and resources to help companies

strengthen or expand their employee volunteer programs. [This month's column](#) features a variety of resources that can help companies build a business case for their workplace volunteer programs.

For additional resources on employee volunteering, see Business Strengthening America's [Online Resource Toolkit](#).

Grant Funds Available for Volunteer Service Programs

Corporation for National and Community Service

★ The Corporation has announced that it is accepting applications through March 8, 2005 for AmeriCorps*National 2005 grants. For details, [click here](#).

★ To apply for AmeriCorps*State Competitive grants, contact the relevant state commission for application details and due date as these can vary from state to state. To find the point of contact at each state commission, [click here](#).

★ For organizations interested in partnering with a national service program for the first time, [click here](#) to learn how AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn & Serve America can help strengthen your community and what grant funding is available for each of these programs.

National Volunteer Week

★ Youth Service America, the U.S. Department of Justice, and their national partners have announced the availability of more than 400 mini-grants in support of National Youth Service Day 2005, to be held April 15-17, 2005. [Click here](#) for a list of the various grant competitions and application deadlines.



President Bush meets USA Freedom Corps Dan Yeric, a dedicated volunteer with a local children's hospital for 12 years. Since March 2002, [the President has met with almost 400 USA Freedom Corps greeters](#) across the country.

"Dan has been a volunteer at the Akron Children's Hospital for 12 years. The reason I bring him up is the strength of this country lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. The true strength of America is not our military might, it's not the size of our pocketbook. The true strength of America is in the hearts and souls of citizens who are working to change this country one person at a time, those who've heard the call to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves. Dan is a soldier in the army of compassion. Thank you for your example."

President George W. Bush
in [his remarks](#) on health care in Canton, Ohio
October 22, 2004